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Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's Written Works: A Brief Review

Iman Najim Abdul-Rahman

Prof madya dr. Najm Abdul-Rahman

Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)

Iman.najmk@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

This paper spots light on the numerous works written by Al-Imam Ibn Abi Al-Dunya. Many of these works were published although many others were considered missing. However, the available works that has been published provide a considerable amount of knowledge in various fields of science. This encourages researchers to conduct different studies based on these works. Also, it is worth noting that only brief information of Ibn Abī Al-Dunyā's life has reached us. Nevertheless, researchers can write much about such a character through his works. In other words, achievements are the best reflection of an individual's intentions. In this paper, sixty two works of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya are briefly reviewed along with their year of publication and name of editors. Works published on Ibn Abi Al-Dunya are also mentioned.

Keywords: Ibn Abi Al-Dunya, manuscripts, achievements, publications.



الملخص

تسلط هذه الدراسة الضوء على النتاج العلمي للإمام المحدث والمربي ابن أبي الدنيا، وذلك من خلال آثاره الخطية الوفيرة. فعلى الرغم من اعتبار الكثير من مؤلفات الإمام مفقودة لم يعثر عليها بعد، إلا أن عددا كبيرا منها تم إيجاده وتحقيقه. وتعتبر المادة المنشورة مصدرا ثريا للدراسة من قبل الباحثين المهتمين. كما تظهر الدراسة تنوع المجالات التي تناولها ابن أبي الدنيا في مؤلفاته مما يمكن الباحث من تقصي الكثير عن شخصية الإمام وموروثه العلمي. تعرض هذه الدراسة اثنان وستون عملا منشورًا للإمام ابن أبي الدنيا بإيجاز مع أسماء محققيها وتاريخ نشرها بالإضافة إلى الدراسات التي قامت عليه.

الكلمات المفتاحية: ابن أبي الدنيا، الآثار الخطية، النتاج العلمي، تحقيق.



Introduction

Ibn Abi Al-Dunya was a prolific writer who composed around two hundred and seventeen (217) books covering various fields of knowledge and science. He wrote in Qira'at (methods of recitation) such as: *Huruf Khalaf*, Hadith, linguistic and literature, history, biography, doctrine and asceticism. In addition to this, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya, in many of his works, is considered one of the earliest, if not the first, who developed different types of genres. To mention but a few, *kitab Al-Manamat* (book of dreams), *Qisar Al-Amal* (shortening long hopes), *Man Asha Ba'd Al-Mawt* (those who survived after death), *Al-Iyal* (the family), *Al-Samt wa Adab Al-Lisan* (silence and ethics of the tongue) and *Islah Al-Mal* (restoration of Wealth). His book, which is of close relevance to my topic, *Muhasabat Al-Nafs wa Al-Izra' Alayha* (Self-accountability and Admonishment), is considered the earliest work to be written in such a genre. Except for one book entitled Adab Al-Nufus (self-discipline) written by Al-Harith Al-Muhasibi (d. 243 AH). But this book is not *musnad* (i.e., contains continuous chain of narrators) unlike Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's.

Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's high standing as a scholar and a creative reformer is attested by his intellectual output and the positive testimonies of many notable scholars. Ibn Kathir (1986) says of him that he was a "conserver and a compiler in every discipline, well-known for his many beneficial works" (p. 11/71). Likewise, Al-Khatib Al-Baghdadi (2001) who says he was, "The compiler of books on piety and heart softening" (p. 11/293). As for Al-Kutbi (1973) he says that Ibn Abi Al-Dunya was "One of the trustworthy writers on Hadith and biographies" (p. 1/494). Ibn Abi Al-Dunya wrote many works in the various Islamic sciences, with a marked predilection for ethico-spiritual themes. Notably, each work of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's is a masterpiece on its own. Almost all of his works include a limited number of attributed Hadiths (*marfu'*)[1]. But, in general,

[1] An attributed Hadith is a Hadith that is attributed to the Prophet (SAW), but not proven to have a continuous chain of transmitters up to him.



his works consist of four main categories: Hadiths (known as *al-akhbar*), *Al-Mawqufat*[2], *Al-Maqtu'at*[3] and poetry.

Published Works on Ibn Abi Al-Dunya

- Muhammad Khair Ramadan Yusuf (1994). *Fihris Al-Aḥadith allati Rawaha Ibn Abi Al-Dunya*. Beirut: Dar Ibn Hazm.
- Fadil Ibn Khalaf Al-Hummadah Al-Raqqi (2012). Ibn Abi Al-Dunya Muḥaddithan wa Muṣliḥan. In *Mawsu'at Ibn Abi Al-Dunya* (1st vol., pp. 1–576). Riyadh: Dar Atlas Al-Khadra'.
- Ibtisam Marhun Al-Ṣaffar (2014). *Ibn Abi Al-Dunya: Maṣadiruhu wa Mu'allafatuhu ma'a Taḥqiq Kitabihi Al-Faraj ba'd Al-Shiddah*. Beirut: Dar Al-Muqtabas.

Brief Review of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's Published Works

In this section, the published works of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya are introduced with details of their editions and the studies made on them along with an abstract for the contents and outline of each work. The works are alphabetically organized:

1. Al-Ikhlas[4] [sincerity]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya deals with a crucial and sensitive subject with which all of a person's deeds are approved and vice versa. Being truly sincere to Allah in everything said or done needs a lot of effort. Thus, the first and most important result of sincerity is the purification of the soul. The main theme of the book is purification of the soul through sincerity. Like all of his works, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya included in this book Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars. However, verses of poetry were not included unlike Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's usual method in writing. The book was neither given subtitles nor was it divided into clear sections.

[2] Narrations from the Prophet's companions in terms of their sayings and actions. Known also as '*al-athar*.'
[3] It refers to the narration when the chain of transmitters stops at the *Tabi'i* (i.e., the followers of the Prophet's companions) in terms of sayings and actions.
[4] This book has been studied by: Al-Tabba' (1992), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



2. Al-Iʿtibar wa Aʿqab Al-Surur wa Al-Ahzan[5] [lessons and the sequences of happiness and sadness]

Ibn Abi Al-Dunya focuses in this book on the reality of life that turns about between happiness and sadness. Regardless of the multiple reasons for the happiness or sadness, the book presents both as being tests sent from Allah to his slaves to testify their gratefulness or dissatisfaction. The best protective solution for life turns is to focus on the lifeafter rather than life by way of asceticism. However, achieving balance between the two is the cornerstone. Thus, the main theme of this book is to achieve balance between the focus on the worldly life and the afterlife. It includes seventy-seven (77) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. The book was not given subtitles nor was it divided into chapters.

3. Al-Amr bi Al-Ma'ruf wa Al-Nahi an Al-Munkar[6] [enjoining the good and forbidding the wrong]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya introduces a significant character by which this Ummah was described as the best of the other nations. Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an: " [Believers], you are the best community singled out for people: you order what is right, forbid what is wrong, and believe in God" (Al-Qur'an. Al-Imran 3:110). Through enjoining the right and forbidding the wrong the society may be kept on the right track that Allah has set for it. It shows the unity of the society and the Ummah, which cares about each other and favours the good as well as rejects the bad for everyone. Keeping pace on the track of guidance may not be achieved at all times and ups and downs do occur. Due to this, advice is always needed for the Ummah to stay alive. The book includes one hundred and fifteen (115) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. The book was not given subtitles nor was it divided into chapters.

4. Al-Ahwal[7] [the book of horrors]

[5] This book has been studied by: Khalaf (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[6] This book has been studied by: Al-Shalahi (1997), Sa'dawi (2000), Dar Ibn Hazm (2004) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[7] This book has been studied by: Al-Sayyid (1993), Al-Mubārakfūrī (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



This book focuses on an unseen issue that has an effective role in purifying the soul. It stands as a reminder and an admonishment of the day of resurrection. Similar to hell, which is unseen, the horrors of the day of resurrection are meant for the purpose of having people to fear disobeying Allah's commands. It is based on the notion of recompense and punishment, which both should go in harmony. The horrors of the day of resurrection and the fact of being asked about everything, urges people not to cheat, harm or oppress anyone. The book includes two hundred and seventy two (272) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars. All the narrations are related to the subject and are categorized into seven subsections pertaining to the description of the day of resurrection and its phases starting from the blow in the horn and until the entrance of paradise

5. Al-Awliya'[8] [the allies of Allah]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya focuses the narrations on a group of Muslims that are considered to be very close to their creator, Allah (SWT). Since this group was given the honour of being connected to Allah in the Qur'an (*Awliya' Allah*), it is no wonder that Ibn Abi Al-Dunya decided to compile a book about Allah's preference for them, their characteristics, purified souls and every good manner they carry. Thus, reaching such a status needs a lot of soul purification. The book includes one hundred and twenty-one (121) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. The book was not given subtitles nor was it divided into chapters.

6. Al-Ikhwan[9] [Brotherhood]

This book deals with a vital social aspect of people, brotherly rights and relations. All Muslims in the world are brothers and sisters by the unity of Islam. Ibn Abi Al-Dunya in this book first sheds light on the significance and status of brotherhood. Then, he gives examples of intimacy among brothers and the rights of each brother upon the other. The book consists of two hundred and twenty

[8] This book has been studied by: Jam'iyyat Al-Nashr wa Al-Ta'lif wa Al-Tarjamah (1935), Ibrahim (1987), Zaghlul (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[9] This book has been studied by: Al-Tawalbah & Khalaf (1988), Ata (1988), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



eight (228) Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. It is divided between sixteen (16) sections.

7. Al-Ishraf fi Manazil Al-Ashraf[10] [traits of nobles]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya highlights the traits and noble character of the nobles within society. He aims through his book to encourage the Muslims to follow such exemplars and make the most benefit of their good character. Like his other books, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya included around five hundred and twenty (520) narrations distributed among Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars. The book was not given subtitles nor was it divided into chapters.

8. Istina' Al-Ma'ruf[11] [Art of making good]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya aims at going far beyond the traditional ways of performing the good. He includes various narrations to highlight the amount of creativity that could be used in the field of giving and performing the good. Thus, giving, performing or doing the good is considered good! But, yet it is far beyond the goodness of *making* the good. The main theme of the book is creativity in performing the good. The book includes one hundred and eighty-two (182) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are organized into two chapters pertaining to the merit of performing the good, types of goodness, people who deserve to receive the goodness and the importance of being thankful when receiving any form of good.

9. Islah Al-Mal[12] [restoration of wealth]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya focuses on wealth, which is a vital tool for living. He gives a detailed view of all aspects of wealth. He starts his book by introducing the legal ways to earn money, how to maintain it and the proper ways

[10] This book has been studied by: Khalaf (1990), Ibrahim (1990), Ata (1992), Qassab (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[11] This book has been studied by: Sa'dawi (2000), Yusuf (2002) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[12] This book has been studied by: Al-Qudah (1990), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



to spend it for the goodness in this life and the afterlife. The book also considers the psychological aspect of purifying the soul through earning, spending and investment. The book includes five hundred and thirteen (513) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to wealth and are organized into seventeen chapters pertaining to the lawful acquisition of wealth, its virtue, types of wealth and livelihoods, practicing moderation, inheritance and the problem of abundant wealth and poverty.

10.Al-Tahajjud wa Qiyam Al-Layl[13] [to arise from night's sleep for prayer]
This book speaks about the grace of arising from bed after sleep for worshipping Allah and praying. The specialty of *tahajjud* lies in the timing. While night is meant for resting and sleeping, which is the usual case for most Muslims, some find it insufficient to worship Allah only during the day. They tend to wake up after midnight to worship their creator and remember Him while others are sleeping. *Tahajjud* works a great deal in purifying the soul as this worship is not compulsory upon Muslims and it is performed at the time while people are asleep so hypocrisy may not occur. The book includes three hundred and thirty-eight (338) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars. All the narrations are related to the main theme of the book and are categorized into six subsections pertaining to the description of those who perform *tahajjud*, the grace of arising from sleep for prayer, motivating Muslims to perform *tahajjud* and the recompense from Allah for *tahajjud*.

11.Al-Tawadu' wa Al-Khumul[14] [humility and anonymous]
This book is concerned with an essential innate state of a person. *Tawadu'* or humility is the state of being humble. The virtue of humility is the opposite of arrogance, pride and haughtiness. All people are equal without any superiority. What distinguishes one from the other in Islam is faith, which only Allah can see deep inside each person's heart. Humility is the portal to good conduct and the foremost means of being near to both the Creator and the created. All this would

[13] This book has been studied by: Al-Sa'dani (1994), Al-Ḥārithī (1998), Al-Nadawi (2000), Sa'dawi (2000), Al-Tahtawi (2005) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[14] This book has been studied by: Al-Saghir (1988), Ata (1989), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



undoubtedly enhance the process of purifying the soul. The book includes two hundred and fifty one (251) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized into two chapters pertaining to the description of *tawadu'* and *khumul* and popularity, modesty in dressing, good morals, arrogance and swaggering.

12. Al-Tawbah[15] [repentance to Allah]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya focuses on importance of repentance to Allah, its merits and reward. *Tawbah* is sought from Allah for committed sins. It is a life transformational process. It paves the way for success: "Believers, all of you, turn to God so that you may prosper" (Al-Qur'an. Al-Nur 24:31). *Tawbah* also keeps Muslims from hardships and trials. It pleases Allah and helps clear Muslims conscience leading to forgiveness of one's sins. Therefore, *tawbah* helps greatly in purifying ones soul. The book includes two hundred and eight (208) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars. All the narrations are related to the main theme of the book and are left without any categorization.

13. Al-Tawakkul Ala Allah[16] [trust and reliance upon Allah]

This book concentrates on the concept of *tawakkul*, its importance and benefits. *Tawakkul* does not mean to abandon material resources. It always needs the balance between action and trust in Allah (SWT). Trusting and relying upon Allah may instill an enormous amount of peace and contentment in a person and therefore help in the process of one's soul purification. *Tawakkul* is also an essential part of the completion of one's faith. The book includes sixty-one (61) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any form of categorization or subtitling.

[15] This book has been studied by: Ibrahim (1991), Ata (1989), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[16] This book has been studied by: Jam'iyyat Al-Nashr wa Al-Ta'lif wa Al-Tarjamah (1935), Dar Al-Arqam (1984), Ibrahim (1986), Al-Dousari (1987), Zāhir Abū Dāūd & Abdullah Badrān (1988), Al-Hādī (1988), Dar Al-Khair (1990), Al-Laḥḥām (1992), Ata (1993), Al-Sawwas & Yūsuf Bidaiwī (1994), Sa'dawi (2000), Al-Tahtawi (2006) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



14.Al-Ju'[17] [hunger]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya intends to pull people's attention to the fact that hunger is not as bad as it is thought to be. Contrarily, hunger has many advantages that may be sought. The book ignores the aspects, which focus on the suffering and physical effects of severe hunger. Known by his continuous efforts in reform, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya introduces hunger from a spiritual perspective. Many scholars have spoken about the benefit of hunger in modesty, which opposes full satiation. Among the most beneficial aspects of hunger is the purification of the soul and awakening of intuition, warding off sleep and maintaining continuous wakefulness and facilitating continuous worship. The book includes three hundred and twenty (320) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any form of categorization or subtitling.

15.Husn Al-Zan Bi-llah[18] [good expectation from Allah]

This book focuses on the merit of expecting good from Allah at all times. Thinking well of Allah manifests itself in believing in the means of salvations granted by Allah (SWT) and not otherwise. That is, thinking and expecting good from Allah usually benefits those who sincerely repent and determine not to return to sins and to spend the rest of their lives in goodness, obedience and righteous. Then, such a repentant hopes to attain mercy through thinking well of Allah (SWT). Thus, this is how *Husn Al-Zan Bi-llah* should be sought. This book entreats the Muslim to be optimistic, to repudiate hopelessness and to strive towards betterment through work, which greatly boosts the purification of the soul. The book includes one hundred and fifty-one (151) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any form of categorization or subtitling.

[17] This book has been studied by: Yusuf (1997), Sa'dawi (2000), Al-Sa'dani (2002) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[18] This book has been studied by: Jam'iyyat Al-Nashr wa Al-Ta'lif wa Al-Tarjamah (1987), Ibrahim (1988), Muhammad (1988), Dar Al-Thiqah (1990), Shanuhah (1993), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



16.Al-Hilm Wa Tham Al-Fuhsh[19] [forbearance and the castigation of obscenity]
Ibn Abi Al-Dunya, in this book, sheds light on the virtue of *hilm*, which is among the beloved traits to Allah (SWT). Forbearance governs the other requisite virtues such as temperance, compassion and modesty. It manifests itself throughout the Muslim's life in every ethical dilemma or circumstance. In contrast, anger, which is the opposite of *hilm*, is among the most undesirable characters of a person. *Hilm* reinforces the process of soul purification in the way that it helps suppress one's wrath and enables people to understand and accept each other in a better way. The book includes one hundred and twenty-six (126) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any form of categorization or subtitling.

17.Hilm Mu'awiyah[20] [Mu'awiyah's forbearance]
Ibn Abi Al-Dunya devotes this book to show one of Mu'awiyah's most recognised qualities. It is said that friends and critics alike have recognized his quality of *hilm*. The book includes thirty-nine (39) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with few verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any form of categorization or subtitling.

18.Thikr Al-Mawt[21] [recalling death]
In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya relates about six hundred narrations that talk about death from all its aspects. He mentions several issues that are related to or occur before death, while dying and after being dead. For example, he refers to the importance of being prepared for death, the different states of people while dying, signs of good ending, thinking well of Allah and His mercy and the meetings between the souls of the previously deceased with the newly deceased

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[19] This book has been studied by: Jam'iyyat Al-Nashr wa Al-Ta'lif wa Al-Tarjamah (1987), Ibrahim (1986), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[20] This book has been studied by: Hazāimah & Yāsīn (2000), Salih (2002) and Al-Zubaidi (2006).
[21] This book has been studied by: Kinberg (1983) and Al Salman (2002).



person. This topic is tightly related to the process of purifying the soul. That is, remembering death with all its concerns and the importance of the good ending encourages people to work hard towards rectitude to achieve this state of success. The book includes five hundred and ninety two (592) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are organized into twenty-five (25) sections; each is given a proper title.

19.Tham Al-Baghi[22] [castigation of transgression]

This book focuses on a characteristic that has a great impact on the society as a whole. *Baghi* refers to the transgression and trespassing into the space and the rights of others, whether those rights are of Allah (SWT) or of a human being. It includes iniquity and the desire to exalt without right. Ibn Abi Al-Dunya tries in this small book to show the evil that lies within *baghi*, which should prevent people from performing it in any of its forms. The book also relates narrations that show the punishment and evil end of *Baghi*. The book includes thirty-eight (38) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any form of categorization or subtitling.

20.Tham Al-Dunya[23] [castigation of life]

Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an: "My people, the life of this world is only a brief enjoyment; it is the Hereafter that is the lasting home" (Al-Qur'an. Ghafir 40:39). There are many other Qur'anic ayahs, which dispraise the life of this world and invite people to exploit their efforts for the hereafter. Those who hold on to the false life of the world, yearning for material benefits may be distracted from obedience, worship and performing their religious duties on time and in a perfect manner. It also deprives them from purifying their souls. As narrated in Al-Bukhari, the Prophet (SAW) urges Muslims to be in this world like a stranger or

[22] This book has been studied by: Khalaf (1988), Sa'dawi (2000), Al-Hummadah (2012) and Al-Sa'dani (n.d.).
[23] This book has been studied by: Ibrahim (1988), Ata (1993), Almagor (1994), Al-Sawwas (1999), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



a wayfarer in order not to loose the right balancing in favouring the hereafter on this world. Ibn Abi Al-Dunya in this book includes four hundred and ninety-seven (497) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of castigating the life and are categorization into three chapters.

21.Tham Al-Muskir[24] [castigation of intoxicant]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya relates narrations about the evil and harmfulness that lies in all intoxicants. He also includes narrations that show the prohibition of intoxicants. Islam takes an uncompromising stand towards intoxicants and forbids their consumption in either small or large quantities. Intoxicants are undoubtedly harmful and adversely affect the mind and the body. They also cloud the mind, cause diseases, waste money and destroy individuals, families and communities. The book includes seventy-three (73) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any form of categorization or subtitling.

22.Tham Al-Malahi[25] [castigation of pastimes]

This book points out all that is a pastime, which deprives the Muslim from worshiping Allah (SWT) and drags Muslims to a bad ending. Using the word '*malahi*' in its wider sense, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya denounces not only music but instruments of diversion like: backgammon, chess and pigeon-flying. He also includes narrations on sexual perversions. The book consists of one hundred and seventy-seven (177) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized into eleven sections.

[24] This book has been studied by: Khalaf (1989), Al-Sa'dani (1992), Al-Sawwas (1992), Shu'aib (1999), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[25] This book has been studied by: Ata (1987), Zaghlul & Abdullah (1993), Salim (1995), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



23.Al-Rida An Allah Bi Qada'ih[26] [being pleased with Allah's decree]

This book is concerned with the issue of the importance for every Muslim to be pleased with Allah's decree. Ibn Abi Al-Dunya collected over one hundred narrations in this book that address the importance of being pleased with Allah's decree, the aspects with which Muslims may reach this state of contentment, the reward for being pleased with Allah's decree and some examples of those who achieved contentment with Allah's decree. In fact, this book is considered to be one of the various books of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya, which contribute to the ultimate state of purifying one's soul. Once the believer realizes that there is no control or power over the blows of fate, his/her only recourse is to submit to Allah's decree and strive to actualize a state of total contentment. The book consists of one hundred and forty (104) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any form of categorization or subtitling.

24.Al-Riqqah Wa Al-Buka'[27] [sensitivity of the heart and weeping]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya concentrates on weeping, which results from a spiritual state following a certain form of worship, like praying, reciting the Qur'an or remembering Allah by oneself. The book starts with 'weeping out of fear from Allah and its reward' and ends with examples from those who wept out of fear from Allah. The book consists of four hundred and twenty-eight (428) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under twenty-two titles.

25.Al-Ruhban [the monks]

This book talks about the group of people who are members of a religious order, who live in a monastery, away from the rest of the society. They are usually bound by vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. This book is considered

[26] This book has been studied by: Al-Silafi (1990), Ibrahim (1990), Al-Laḥḥām (1992), Ata (1993), Zaghlul & Abdullah (1993), Salim (1995), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[27] This book has been studied by: Al-Sa'dani (1996), Al-Kadish (1998), Yusuf (1998), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



among Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's missing books. Only some narrations were found and published.

26.Al-Shukr[28] [thankfulness]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya relates over two hundred narrations on being thankful to Allah (SWT). It includes topics such as the grace of being thankful, its status, its reward and some examples of thankful people. It also shows how Muslims can be thankful to Allah and in what way. The book consists of two hundred and four (204) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under two chapters without titles or subheadings.

27.Al-Sabr wa Al-Thawab Alayh[29] [patience and its reward]

This book is focused on one essential behaviour that is needed throughout this changeful life. Without patience even religious duties cannot be successfully performed. Due to this, Allah (SWT) has set an endless reward for the patient ones. Also, being patient while performing Allah's duties as well as being patient while putting all the effort to keep away from Allah's prohibitions greatly helps to purify the Muslim's soul. The book includes topics on patience such as the grace and status of patience, types of patience, the result of being patient and its reward. The book consists of one hundred and ninety-six (196) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any form of categorization or subtitling.

28.Al-Samt wa Adab Al-Lisan[30] [silence and ethics of the tongue]

Ibn Abi Al-Dunya focuses in this book on the faults or problems of the tongue and the grace of silence. Due to the seriousness of the subject of the book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya devotes more than seven hundred narrations to cover the important

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[28] This book has been studied by: Ṭāḥūn (1978), Al-Badr (1980), Ahmad & Amin (1983), Al-Sawwas & Al-Arnā'ūṭ (1985), Al-Ṭanṭāwī (1992), Zaghlul (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[29] This book has been studied by: Yusuf (1997), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[30] This book has been studied by: Khalaf (1986), Aāshūr (1988), Al-Huwayni (1990), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



topics related to the tongue and its problems. The book also cover topics such as the importance of guarding one's tongue against saying anything wrong or bad, the grace of silence, castigation of backbiting and talebearing, keeping secrets and promises and speaking the truth. Hence, all these behaviours if made available will enhance the process of purifying the soul and allow the Muslim to be closer to his Creator. The book includes seven hundred and fifty-nine (759) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized into six chapters with subheadings in each chapter.

29.Sifat Al-Jannah[31] [paradise: a descriptive account]

This book focuses on the psychological aspect that is based on the concept of recompensation and punishment. Thus, the two scales should be balanced. If recompensation outweighs punishment, there will be reliance, overstepping Allah's boundaries and overindulgence in life desires. Similarly, if punishment outweighs recompensation, there will be desperation with which performance of good deeds will become very weak and may even stop. Allah (SWT) says: "And do not cause corruption to the earth after its reformation and call Him in fear and hope" (7: 56). The book works on purifying the individual's soul through encouraging individuals to work hard and comply with Allah's commands for a happy and bright ending. It includes three hundred and sixty four (364) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars. All the narrations are related to the main theme of the book.

30.Sifat Al-Nar[32] [hellfire: a descriptive account]

This book handles part of the psychological aspect, which disparages Allah's commands and his prohibitions. It works on purifying the individual's soul through fear and highlighting the miserable ends of those who do not comply with Allah's commands. Allah says in the Qur'an: "[Prophet], tell My servants

[31] This book has been studied by: Al-Ṭanṭāwī (1994), Salim (1996), Al-Asaslah & Khalaf (1997), Sa'dawi (2000), Al-Tahtawi (2004) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[32] This book has been studied by: Yusuf (1997), Abbās (1998), Al-Sa'dani (2000), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



that I am the Forgiving, the Merciful, but My torment is the truly painful one" (Al-Qur'an. Al-Hijr 15:49–50). Sufyan Ibn Uyayynah is quoted in this book saying: "Hell is created as a mercy, for Allah injects its fear in his creatures that they might refrain from bad deeds" (Ibn Abi Al-Dunya, 1997: 95). The book includes two hundred and sixty two (262) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars. All the narrations are related to hell and are categorized into ten subsections pertaining to the description of hell, the chastisement of its inmates, its mountains, valleys, weapons, animal, food and drink.

31.Al-Uzlah Wa Al-Infirad[33] [loneliness and privacy]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya introduces the merits of loneliness and privacy. The dislike of social loneliness has been discussed earlier in this chapter. But, loneliness in this book is of a different kind. Loneliness, or solitude could be positive in the case when socializing deprives the person from being productive at any level or performing his/her religious duties properly. This may occur, especially, when social relations are non-beneficial and are merely a waste of time. Solitude also helps to reinforce the process of soul purification because it allows the person to rethink about his sayings and doings and to consider his religious progression. The book includes two hundred and three (203) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized into two chapters without subheadings.

32.Al-Uqubat[34] [the punishments]

This book is focused on the reasons and types of punishments that occur due to people's sins and disobedience of Allah. Over three hundred narrations were gathered to point out the issue. The book includes topics such as reasons and types of Allah's punishment, examples of Allah's punishment of individuals, nations, angels and animals and the importance of asking Allah for His forgiveness and regretting the committing of sins. Within this notion of reward

[33] This book has been studied by: Al Salman (1997), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[34] This book has been studied by: Yusuf (1997), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



and punishment, Muslims may succeed in purifying their souls from everything that may hinder its clearness and sincerity to Allah (SWT). The book includes three hundred and sixty (360) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other according to the theme of each narration without any categorization or subtitling.

33.Al-Umr Wa Al-Shayb[35] [age and grey hair]

Ibn Abi Al-Dunya devotes this book to emphasize on the value of time and age in one's life. He collect approximately ninety narrations in this book distributed over three chapters. The first chapter shows the grace of long life, especially when it is accompanied with good deeds. The second chapter refers to the respect that should be shown from the youth towards the elders and the lessons drawn from being old and growing grey hair. The last chapter describes the state of being old and weak after youth and strength. The book includes ninety one (91) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized into three chapters without titles or subtitling except for the last chapter, which was titled as: A Chapter on Elderliness.

34.Kitab Al-Iyal[36] [the book of family]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya made a great effort in giving a thorough understanding of the role of each member of the family. Unlike other works, Kitab Al-Iyal discussed all the main aspects, rather than focusing on some of them, needed to raise a healthy, positive and interactive family. The book examines religious, financial, social, emotional, sexual, educational and moral aspects of the family. It devotes separate sections to boys and girls to shed light on their differentiations and separate needs at some points. It also studies the different stages of childhood starting from very early stages before pregnancy and until teenage. It consists of six hundred and seventy four (674) Hadiths,

[35] This book has been studied by: Khalaf (1992), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[36] This book has been studied by: Khalaf (1990/1997), Al-Sa'dani (1994), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry.

35.Al-Aql wa Fadluh[37] [the intellect and its merits]

This book talks about the merits and status of the human mind from the Islamic perspective. It also pays attention to two types of the mind and the correct ways to maintain proper thought and the tools that may distort it and hinder its great role. It outlines the limits of the human mind and that it is similar to any other human ability that once overused my give contrary results. The book includes one hundred and two (102) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

36.Al-Ghibah wa Al-Namimah[38] [backbites and talebearing]

This book deals with two bad qualities: backbiting and talebearing. The danger of these characteristics on individuals and societies lies in its destructive results through sowing enmity, evils and discord among people. The book, through its narrations, gives a description to backbiting and talebearing. It includes topics such as the result and punishment of backbiting and talebearing, the responsibility of Muslims towards backbiting and double tongued people. The book includes one hundred and sixty-four (164) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized into eleven chapters with an appropriate titling for each.

37.Al-Faraj Ba'd Al-Shiddah[39] [relief after hardship]

The theme of this book brings back hope and calls for optimism. It is based on the notion of the tranquility of Muslims through their strong faith in Allah's will

[37] This book has been studied by: Al-Kawthari (1946), Al-Saghir (1988), Ibrahim (1988), Zaghlul & Abdullah (1993), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[38] This book has been studied by: Umar (1989), Khalaf (1989), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000), Al-Hummadah (2012) and Mahmud (n.d.).

[39] This book has been studied by: Al-Aāl & Imād Firrah (1986), Aāliah (1987), Al-Sawwas & Abd Al-Qādir Al-Arnā'ūṭ (1992), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012), Al-Ṣaffār (2014), Al-Anṣārī (n.d.) and Ibrāhīm (n.d.).



and good destiny. This belief helps Muslims to pursue their life with peace of mind, optimism and calmness through thick and thin. In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya collects more than one hundred narrations on topics such as: types of difficulty, ways to bring relief after hardship and the power of *du'a'* (supplication), examples of people who experienced relief after hardship and the reward of showing patience in hardship. The book includes one hundred and forty-one (141) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

38.Fada'il Shahr Ramadan[40] [merits of *Ramadan*]

This book is concerned with issues related to the Holy month of *Ramadan*. Unlike his other books, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya places the narrations of this book into groups according to its jurisprudential matters. The book includes issues such as the grace of *Sha'ban* (the month preceding *Ramadan*), the grace of *Ramadan*, getting up from sleep for praying and waking up for *suhur* (a pre-dawn meal). The book includes sixty-three (63) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized into three subheadings according to the jurisprudential issues related to *Ramadan*.

39.Fada'il Ashr Thi Al-Hijjah[41] [merits of 'ashr *thi Al-Hijjah*]

This booklet focuses on the merits of 'ashr *thi Al-Hijjah*, its reward, types of worship that may be performed during these blessed days and the grace of the *Day of Arafah* and the reward of fasting this day for non-pilgrims. It includes nineteen (19) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

[40] This book has been studied by: al-Mansur (1995), Al-Sa'dani (1997), Al-Nadawi (2000), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[41] This book has been studied by: Al-Mitairi (2011) and Al-Sa'idi (2012).



40.Qisar Al-Amal[42] [shortening long hopes]

This Book deals with a topic that is of immense importance in a materialistic society. It discusses the importance of reducing long hopes for the sake of working hard for the afterlife, which is the true everlasting life. We live in a consumer-based world, which may distract us from being concerned about the afterlife. The antidote to this is ‘Qisar Al-Amal’, reducing long hopes. This book can be an effective antidote to our materialistic lives. The book consists of three hundred and forty nine (349) Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet’s companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. The book is divided into three main sections. The first section consists of hundred and eight (108) reports without subheadings. It introduces the importance of shortening long hopes. The second section consists of ninety-three (93) reports that lack subheadings as well and talk mainly about the initiation of good work. The last section consists of hundred and forty-six (146) reports with three subheadings in which some techniques and treatments to prevent long hopes are provided.

41.Al-Qana’ah Wa Al-Ta’affuf[43] [contentment and abstinence]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya collected more than two hundred narrations to deal with greediness through two greatly positive traits: contentment and abstinence. The book introduces topics such as the grace of abstinence, castigation of asking needs from others, seeking livelihood with calmness and being contented with Allah’s destiny, asking Allah (SWT) for one’s needs rather than asking the people and censure of greed. The book includes two hundred and ten (210) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet’s companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under four main headings.

42.Al-Qubur[44] [graves]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya took his time in collecting a great number of narrations that are all related to graves and death. Due to the importance of this

[42] This book has been studied by: Yusuf (1995), Sa’dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[43] This book has been studied by: Ibrahim (1989), Sa’īd (1992), Ata (1993), Sa’dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[44] This book has been studied by: Kinberg (1983), Al-Amudi (2000), Sa’dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



subject, many scholars were reported to quote from it. Also, it is said that Ibn Abi Al-Dunya was the first to compile a book on this kind of genre. The book includes topics such as drawing lessons from funerals, writings found on some graves, the Day of Resurrection and deceased people that delivered advice in the graveyards. The book includes three hundred and sixty-two (362) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under six headings without subtitling.

43.Qira Al-Dayf[45] [hospitality to guests]
This book focuses on hospitality to guests. It includes topics such as ethics and morals of hospitality and handling visitors, the status and reward of good hospitality and examples of the generosity of some people. The book includes sixty-seven (67) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

44.Qada' Al-Hawa'ij[46] [fulfilling the needs of others]
This is one of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's most beneficial books. It is concerned with a characteristic that helps to tighten the relations among people and keep them away from selfishness. Doing things for others for the pure sake of helping them creates positivity in the society. The book includes one hundred and seventeen (117) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under three main headings, entitled: the grace of doing good, asking honorable people for the good and being thankful to those who do the good.

[45] This book has been studied by: al-Mansur (1997), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[46] This book has been studied by: Ibrahim (1988), Al-Laḥḥām (1992), Abd Al-Mun'im (1993), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Yusuf (2002).



45.Kalam Al-Layali Wa Al-Ayyam[47] [talks of nights and days]

This is one of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's creative topics that have not been written about before. It is based on the talks of days and nights to human beings by way of a sermon and what humans think of day and night. It points out the importance of time and the necessity of making use of it properly as life, no matter how long, is short. The book includes seventy (70) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

46.Al-Mutamannin[48] [wishers]

This book is another masterpiece of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's creativity in choosing the topics and in writing. The main topic of this book had never been compiled in one book before. Ibn Abi Al-Dunya intends through his writings to put his hand on problems he finds in his society and wished to treat them with lots of creativity and friendliness. The whole book is devoted for 'wishes' of different people, with different statuses and different backgrounds. Whether good or bad, people wish what is usually a reflection of their inner state. Therefore, getting to know what great people wish is not less important. The book includes one hundred and fifty-nine (159) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

47.Mujabu Al-Da'wah[49] [those who have their supplications answered]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya gathers more than one hundred narrations on people who had their supplications answered by Allah (SWT). The examples given in this book are various. The book includes one hundred and thirty-six (136) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All

[47] This book has been studied by: Yusuf (1997), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[48] This book has been studied by: Yusuf (1997), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[49] This book has been studied by: Sharaf Al-Dīn (1972), Office of Editing (1984), Ata (1986), Ibrahim (1987), Alwān (1993), Hamdan (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

48. Muhasabat Al-Nafs wa Al-Izra' Alayha[50] [self-accountability and admonishment]

This book is among the most important and beneficial published works of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya. The issue of taking account of oneself is a crucial matter to keep Muslims on the right track. *Muhasabat al-nafs* includes processes such as retrospection, assessment, accounting and reckoning. Honest self-criticism is an important way to purify the soul and enlighten it with tranquility and success. Sins are a fact of life and all human beings are sinful. However, what makes the difference is repentance, which usually comes after taking account of oneself. The book includes topics such as the importance and result of taking account of oneself, working for the hereafter, starting with oneself, the soul and life, the soul and paradise, to work hard in this life and to seek comfort in the hereafter and some examples of people who took account of themselves. The book includes one hundred and forty-nine (149) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under six main title headings, except for the first that was not given a title.

49. Al-Muhtadirin[51] [moribund]

The experience of death is one that every human being will go through. Unfortunately, it is not an optional choice nor can it be retried. This book is not a book of horror or for story time. The choice of the topics and narrations all point out to the continuous intentions of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya for reform. Talks of death usually help to soften the heart and purify the soul. Among the topics mentioned in this book are: good expectation from Allah on the deathbed, condolence of onself for patience on deathbed, poetry on the bed of death, the saying of the Prophet (SAW) on the deathbed and the princes and kings. The book includes three hundred and sixty-nine (369) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms

[50] This book has been studied by: Abi Hurayrah & Awad (1986), Ibrahim (1987), Al-Sharqāwī (1988), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[51] This book has been studied by: Yusuf (1997), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under nine main headings with appropriate titling.

50.Mudarat Al-Nas[52] [politeness to people]

This book is about morals and good relations with people. It discusses how to deal with people in politeness and according to each one's state, status, etc. Once more, this book was the first of its kind when it was composed. It is a very sophisticated book that leads to good and skilfull social relationships. The topics included in this book are: politeness with people and showing patience towards their harm, ingratiation with people, politeness through smiling and easiness, relations with good manners, politeness through lenience and good speech, being cautious with people to prevent their harm, reconciliation among people, politeness of husbands to their wives and politeness of wives to their husbands. The book includes one hundred and seventy-six (176) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under ten main headings with appropriate titling.

51.Al-Marad wa Al-Kaffarat[53] [sickness and penance]

In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya collected more than two hundred narrations on sickness and how it stands as a penance for sins. He views sickness from the Islamic perspective relating narrations on the reward of accepting the sickness with satisfaction and on what to say when visiting someone who is sick. The book also includes topics on the reward for those who visit the sick and the ethics of visiting. It includes two hundred and sixty-two (262) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

[52] This book has been studied by: Yusuf (1998), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[53] This book has been studied by: Al-Nadawī (1991), Bidaiwī & Jalāl (1992), Al-Sa'dani (1996), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



52.Maka'id Al-Shaytan[54] [plots of Shaitan]

The subject of this book is very important. Although the narrations gathered for this topic are not so many (less than one hundred), it has succeeded in conveying the intended message. In spite of the fact that the plot of the Satan is weak, unfortunately many Muslims fall into his trap. The Satan tends to use many strategies and techniques to achieve his aim. Therefore, knowing these tactics is very important for every Muslim to avoid falling victim to his plots. In this book, Ibn Abi Al-Dunya includes topics such as: the nature of Satan, his plots and tactics and how to be protected from him. The book includes seventy-nine (79) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

53.Makarim Al-Akhlaq[55] [the noble qualities of character]

When Allah (SWT) wants to dispense His grace on someone, he places in his heart the desire to walk the paths leading toward self-purification, and gives him the power to correct the characteristics of his soul. Allah decreed that success in this life and the hereafter, is judged by the degree of purification of the soul and the degree to which the noble character of beings will be reached. It is therefore the duty of every Muslim to seek to achieve the noble character and emulate their Prophet (SAW), who said: “I have been sent only to perfect noble character.” Ibn Abi Al-Dunya realizes the importance of character refinement and emphasizes the traits and qualities that every Muslim should seek to acquire. This book demonstrates how the Prophet (SAW) and the people of piety from his nation embody each of these traits, and tells the reader how to personify the turn. It includes four hundred and eighty-eight (488) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under an introduction and nine main headings with appropriate titling and contents.

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[54] This book has been studied by: Ibrahim (1991) and Sa'dawi (2000).

[55] This book has been studied by: Ibrahim (1990), Al-Sawwas (1999), Ata & Shams Al-Din (2000), Sa'dawi (2000), Uyūn (2002), Al-Hummadah (2012), Abd Al-Raḥīm (2014) and Al-Ḥūt (2015).



54. Al-Matar wa Al-Ra'ad wa Al-Barq wa Al-Rih[56] [rain, thunder, lightning and wind]This book is written on issues of weather from an Islamic perspective. It contains topics such as how rain, thunder, lightning and wind are sent as a mercy from Allah (SWT) or as a punishment. Also, what should be said when each one of them occurs and many other related topics. The book includes one hundred and eighty-two (182) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under four main headings according to the title of the book.

55. Maqtal ʿAli[57] [Assassination of Ali]

This book mentions over one hundred narrations that are related to the assassination of Ali Ibn Abi Talib (RA). It includes narrations on his grace, how he was assassinated, his will, his age when he was killed and how and where he was buried. The book includes one hundred and thirty-nine (139) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under ten entiltled headings.

56. Al-Manamat[58] [dreams]

This book is devoted to dreams. It includes many narrations (more than three hundred) on dreams that are dreamt by different people. It focuses on the type of dreams, which are related to dead people and their state and status after death and that how news of the living reaches them. The book includes three hundred and forty-four (344) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

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[56] This book has been studied by: Al-Amudi (1997), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[57] This book has been studied by: Al-Ṭabṭabāʾī (1987), Al-Maḥmūdī (1990), Ṣāliḥ (2001), Al-Qazwīnī (2002) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[58] This book has been studied by: Ibrahim (1989), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



57.Man Asha Ba'd Al-Mawt[59] [those who survived after death]

This book is again one of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's unique works. It talks about a rare phenomenon that happens to dead people. He relates many narrations about dead people coming back to life. Although this sounds weird and impossible, but Muslims believe that Allah (SWT) is capable of doing anything if He wills. The book includes sixty-three (63) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

58.Al-Ham wa Al-Huzn[60] [worries and sadness]

This book deals with worries and sadness from a different angel that may not be caught at first. It focuses on sadness and worries that occur when a Muslim feels ashamed and blameful due to his sins and negligence of Allah's commands. These worries and sadness are considered positive and they lead to purification of the soul and repentance. The book contains many examples of worried and sad people who either got involved into sins or were frightened of Allah's punishment and the Day of Judgment. The book includes one hundred and seventy-nine (179) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

59.Al-Hawatif[61] [the callers]

This book is another masterpiece of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's works that has not been written about before. It introduces narrations on people who encountered voices coming from graveyards, or while supplication or from the Jinn. The book includes one hundred and seventy-seven (177) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject

[59] This book has been studied by: Kinberg (1983), Al-Dirwish (1986), Jab Allah (1987), Aashur (1987), Al-Ansari (n.d.), Al-Dimashqi (1993), Baydun (1993), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000), Al-Fiqqī (2006) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[60] This book has been studied by: Ibrahim (1991), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).
[61] This book has been studied by: Ibrahim (1988), Ata (1993), Al-Zaghli (1995), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



of the book and are categorized under three main headings entitled: callers of graves, callers of supplication and callers of Jinn.

60.Al-Wajal wa Al-Tawaththuq bil'amal[62] [fear and working hard]

This book is concerned with the importance of fearing Allah (SWT) and working hard to succeed and achieve Allah's pleasantness. It consists of only seven (7) narrations without any titling. The seventh narration, which covers almost the whole book, talks about the story of Antonus, the tourist.

61.Al-Wara'[63] [pious]

Wara' in Islam means to leave everything whose rightness is doubtful in order to avoid falling into the forbidden. It is one result of fearing Allah (SWT). The book includes topics such as: pious in sight, pious in hearing, pious in smell, pious in tongue, pious in violence, pious in stomach, stories of pious people, pious in selling and buying and the reward of pious people. The book contains two hundred and thirty-one (231) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are categorized under twelve main title headings.

62.Al-Yaqin[64] [certainty]

This book is concerned with certainty. Its importance for belief is like that of the soul to the body. The book includes topics such as: the importance of certainty, fruits of certainty, supplications and examples of people's certainty. It consists of forty-three (43) narrations of Hadiths, anecdotes, aphorisms and stories from the Prophet's companions, their successors and later scholars along with verses of poetry. All the narrations are related to the subject of the book and are placed one after the other without any categorization or subtitling.

[62] This book has been studied by: Al Salman (1997), Yusuf (1997), Sa'dawi (2000) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[63] This book has been studied by: Al-Hmud (1988), Beik (1988), Al-Sa'dani (1993), Al-Arabī (1998), Sa'dawi (2000), Al-Jabi (2002) and Al-Hummadah (2012).

[64] This book has been studied by: Zaghlul (1987), Ibrahim (1988), Ata (1993), Sa'dawi (2000), Al-Sawwas (2004) and Al-Hummadah (2012).



Conclusion

This paper focused on Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's written achievements. It reviewed the scientific heritage of Al-Imam Ibn Abi Al-Dunya. It gave a brief introduction to each of Ibn Abi Al-Dunya's published works including the works that had been conducted on Ibn Abi Al-Dunya.

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